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Agenda item 6 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Ms. Marjatta Rasi (Finland), on the basis of informal consultations

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2]

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001 on the establishment of a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

[1] A/CONF.191/12.

[2] A/CONF.191/11.

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Recalling further its resolution 2002/33 of 26 July 2002 on the oral report of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General[3] on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[2]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action, and expresses its expectation of more vigorous implementation by all partners;

3. *Calls* on the Secretary-General, while stressing the central role of the Council in the coordination of actions in the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action, to take appropriate measures to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States so that it can fulfil its functions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/227;

4. *Urges* all Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites the international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations, to extend to the Office of the High Representative their full support for the fulfilment of its mandate, including through staffing support;

5. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its annual assessment at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, recognizes in this regard the critical importance of the participation of the least developed countries in the assessment process of the Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to make, in consultation with Member States, recommendations to facilitate the participation of the delegations of the least developed countries at the annual substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

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[3] A/58/86-E/2003/81.

6. *Reiterates* that the Programme of Action offers a framework for partnership, based on mutual commitments by least developed countries and their development partners to undertake concrete actions in a number of interlinked areas set out in the Programme of Action;

7. *Calls* on least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to continue to fulfil their commitments and to promote the implementation of the actions contained in the Programme of Action by translating them into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, in particular poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, with the involvement of civil society, including the private sector, on the basis of a broad-based inclusive dialogue, as well as to continue to promote an enabling environment for the effective mobilization and utilization of resources consistent with paragraph 82 of the Programme of Action;

8. *Calls* on all development partners of the least developed countries, including multilateral financial institutions, to continue to fulfil their commitments regarding the effective and expeditious implementation of the Programme of Action, and urges the developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to effectively implement their commitments on official development assistance to the least developed countries, as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action;

9. *Invites* the organization and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and all other international organizations, within their respective mandates, to support, as a priority, the implementation of the Programme of Action, including programmes of financial and technical cooperation devoted to least developed countries in support of their national development programmes, including their poverty reduction strategies;

10. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations and the Group of Eight to bridge the digital divide that has further marginalized the least developed countries, particularly in the area of information technology, calls on the international community to address the special needs of the least developed countries therein, and in this regard invites the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society to adopt concrete actions to bridge the digital divide in the least developed countries;

11. *Invites* the forthcoming Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003, to address the marginalization of the least developed countries in international trade and to adopt further measures to effectively integrate the least developed countries into the multilateral trading system and the global economy;

12. *Also invites* the members of the World Trade Organization to facilitate and accelerate accession to the Organization for those least developed countries that are candidates by expeditiously implementing the guidelines to facilitate and accelerate the accession of the least developed countries to the World Trade Organization, which were adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 10 December 2002;[4]

13. *Calls* on the Secretary-General to submit his annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in such a way as to make it more analytical and results-oriented by putting greater emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in its implementation.

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[4] WT/L/508.